

Message Text

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21/13

ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 SCA-01 PPT-02 SSO-00 DRC-01 /089 W

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R 072118Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8486

INFO PAN CANAL

USCINCSO

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CPAS, CVIS, PN, PQ

SUBJ: CHANGE OF STATUS FEE

1. EMBASSY NEEDS ON URGENT BASIS LEGAL OPINION FROM DEPT OF STATE ON WHETHER DEPENDENT FAMILY MEMBERS OF U S GOVT EMPLOYEES OF CANAL ZONE AGENCIES HAVE TO PAY AN IMMIGRATION FEE. PROBLEM ARISES FROM INSISTENCE OF GOP IMMIGRATION OFFICE IN CHARGING \$50 CHANGE OF STATUS FEE AS REQUIRED UNDER ARTICLE 14 OF LAW DECREE NO. 16 OF JUNE 30, 1960, IN CASE OF DEPENDENTS OF U S GOVT EMPLOYEES WHO ARE RESIDING IN REPUBLIC. IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES ARE ALSO INSISTING ON CHARGING \$50 FEE WHERE CANAL ZONE RESIDENT APPLIES FOR "BORDER CROSSING PERMIT" NECESSARY FOR TOURIST TRAVEL TO, FOR EXAMPLE, COSTA RICA AND RETURN.

2. EMBASSY LAST CONFRONTED THIS PROBLEM IN 1972, WHEN, AS RESULT OF EXCHANGE OF NOTES, FONOFF AND IMMIGRATION RULED THAT STAMPED PAPER AND TAX OF ONLY \$2.05 WOULD BE REQUIRED IN MAKING APPLICATION FOR CHANGE OF STATUS. SITUATION ARISES PRIMARILY WHERE CIVILIAN AND MILITARY PERSONNEL ARRIVE IN PANAMA WITHOUT VISA AND, FINDING HOUSING

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UNAVAILABLE WITHIN CANAL ZONE, ARE FORCED TO SEEK

QUARTERS IN REPUBLIC. NEW DIRECTOR OF IMMIGRATION
NOW CONTENDS THIS ARRANGEMENT WAS NOT PROPER AND HE
HAS BEEN CHARGED BY FONMIN WITH ENFORCING THE LAW.

3. ARTICLES X AND XII OF 1903 TREATY WOULD SEEM TO
GRANT EXEMPTIONS FROM ALL CONTRIBUTIONS OR CHARGES OF
A PERSONAL CHARACTER FOR EMPLOYEES AND GRANT THE RIGHT OF
IMMIGRATION AND FREE ACCESS TO ALL EMPLOYEES AND "THEIR RESPECT-
IVE FAMILIES."

4. EMBASSY POUCHING LETTER AND MEMORANDUM, INCLUDING
DECREE LAW NO. 16 TO ARA/PAN SEPT 7.
SAYRE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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30 JUN 2005

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